

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07258 150556Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 SAM-01 /082 W

----- 025334

R 141448Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8992

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7258

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS COMMENTARY ON US STATEMENT ON PALESTINIANS

REF: TEL AVIV 7207

SUMMARY: ISRAELI COMMENTATORS ARE DIVIDED ON SIGNIFICANCE OF US STATEMENT TO HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE, WITH SOME DETECTING NO CHANGE IN US POLICY BUT MAJOR DIPLOMATIC ANALYSTS SEEING IT AS TURNING POINT IN US APPROACH ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE. CABINET WILL DISCUSS THE STATEMENT AT ITS NOVEMBER 16 MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. HAARETZ (GOLAN), MAARIV (HARIF) AND YEDIOT (ZIMUKI) REPORT THAT CABINET WILL DISCUSS THE "SAUNDERS DOCUMENT" AT ITS NOVEMBER 16 MEETING. GOLAN REPORTS THAT THE MERE EXISTENCE OF THE DOCUMENT SURPRISED THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON...AND CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF ANGER IN JERUSALEM...HE HIGHLIGHTS THREE POINTS AS GIVING RISE TO CONCERN IN JERUSALEM: A. THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO PEACE IS THE SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM..., B. THE ASSUMPTION THAT IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 07258 150556Z

PLO THERE IS NO UNITED POSITION, THAT ONLY SOME ELEMENTS

IN IT WANT A SECULAR BI-NATIONAL STATE, AND THAT OTHER ELEMENTS ARE READY TO THINK ABOUT RECOGNIZING ISRAEL. THESE STATEMENTS ARE REGARDED IN JERUSALEM AS THE BEGINNING OF AN ATTEMPT TO CLEAR THE PLO AND PREPARE IT FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. C. THE IDEA OF CLEARING THE PLO SUPPORTS THE DEFINITION OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AS COMMANDOS AND NOT AS TERRORISTS. HAARETZ ASSUMES THAT JERUSALEM WILL PROBABLY IGNORE THE DOCUMENT. "IT CAN ALSO BE ASSUMED THAT ISRAEL WILL CLAIM...THAT THE DOCUMENT AND ITS CONCLUSIONS CONTRADICT THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US FOR PRIOR COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION BEFORE TAKING POLITICAL STEPS..."

2. MAARIV (HARIF) WRITES THAT JERUSALEM FEARS THAT "FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENT ADDITIONAL STEPS WILL COME FROM THE US TO STRENGTHEN THE RECOGNITION OF THE NEED...TO TALK WITH THE PLO. CLEARLY, AS LONG AS THE PLO DOES NOT ANNOUNCE ITS RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, THE US WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PRESS ISRAEL IN THIS DIRECTION." HARIF ADDS THAT " IN A CONSULTATION HELD IN JERUSALEM...RABIN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE US HAS STRONGLY OPPOSED THE UN RESOLUTION ON THE PALESTINIANS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF A 'BALANCE' IT HAS NOW PUBLISHED THE PALESTINIAN DOCUMENT...." YEDIOT (ZIMUKI) WRITES THAT "THERE ARE OBSERVERS WHO REGARD SAUNDERS STATEMENT AS AN INDICATION THAT THE US HAS LOST CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO BRING THE SYRIANS TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE..."

3. IN LENGTHY COMMENTARY, HAARETZ WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARGALIT DESCRIBES THE SAUNDERS DOCUMENT AS "A TURNING POINT IN AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS THE PALESTINIANS. ITS DRAFTING WAS PREPARED WITH THE UTMOST CAUTION...BUT US DIPLOMATS IN THE ARAB STATES WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE THE PALESTINIANS SOMETHING OF A HINT THAT THEIR LONG PATIENCE IS REWARDED...THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN WITHIN SHORT TIME...BUT ANY DIPLOMATIC CHANGE BEGINS WITH WORDS AND FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW THE US HAS GONE A LONG WAY..."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 07258 150556Z

4. HAARETZ EDITORIAL DESCRIBES THE SAUNDERS DOCUMENT AS GIVING RISE TO "CONCERN AND OPPOSITION." ACCORDING TO SAUNDERS' TESTIMONY THE PLO IS NOT DISQUALIFIED AS A PARTNER FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. IT IS NOT THE REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL THAT PREVENTS DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS BETWEEN THE US AND ISREAL BUT THE UNCERTAINTY...REGARDING THE PLO'S ASPIRATIONS. MR. SAUNDERS

FIRMLY SUPPORTS THE RABAT CONFERENCE DECISION...AND
DOUBTS THE PRACTICALITY OF ANY ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE JORDAN
AS A PARTNER TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM..."

5. DAVAR, HATZOFÉ (THE NRP NEWSPAPER) AND AL-HAMISHMAR ON
THE OTHER HAND, DO NOT REGARD THE DOCUMENT AS REFLECTING
A CHANGE IN US POLICY ON THE PALESTINIANS. HATZOFÉ WRITES
THAT THE "DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CHANGE IN US
POLICY, ALTHOUGH IT INCLUDES SEVERAL SENTENCES WHICH
MAY CONTAIN A HINT OF FUTURE POLICY. HATZOFÉ ALSO QUOTES
"POLITICAL CIRCLES" IN JERUSALEM AS SAYING THAT "IT
CONTAINS NO CHANGE OF US POSITION." A SIMILAR CONCLUSION
IS DRAWN BY DAVAR WHICH SPECULATES THAT "THE MIDDLE EAST
ACTIVITY OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION IN THE NEAR
FUTURE WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONCENTRATED ON AN ATTEMPT TO
REACH AN ISRAELI-SYRIAN SETTLEMENT AND NOT ON THE PALESTINIAN
ISSUE..." AL-HAMISHMAR QUOTES ISRAELI SOURCE AS SAYING
THAT MOST OF DOCUMENT'S COMPONENTS DO NOT GO FAR BEYOND
WHAT ALLON SAID LAST MONTH AT THE UNGA.
TOON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PALESTINIANS, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TELAV07258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750398-0764
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751144/aaaabnkd.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TEL AVIV 7207
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 DEC 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI PRESS COMMENTARY ON US STATEMENT ON PALESTINIANS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006